

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 5350

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EEC, US, GW, BE

SUBJECT: HARMEL'S VIEWS ON EC-US RELATIONS

1. TODAY MINISTER OF STATE HARMEL CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS CALL WAS TO GIVE ME HIS VIEWS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS ACHIEVED IN COPENHAGEN SEPTEMBER 10. HE SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED ON A JOINT STATEMENT THAT WOULD MELD THE PRINCIPLES AND GOALS OF THE U.S.-EC RELATIONSHIP

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AND THOSE OF NATO. IN HIS OPINION, THE U.S. SHOULD CONTENT ITSELF WITH TWO SEPARATE DOCUMENTS, FOR THE IDENTITY OF THE

TWO INSTITUTIONS WAS, AS HE SAW IT, ROOTED IN TWO DISCRETE PURPOSES. THE PRINCIPAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EC WAS NOT SO MUCH THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC UNION AS THE CONSECRATION OF THE FRENCH/GERMAN RAPPROCHEMENT. THE TASK OF FIRMLY CEMENTING THE FEDREP OF GERMANY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THUS IN THE WESTERN ORBIT HAD TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, FOR THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF THE INCUMBENT GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN EUROPE WAS SHORT, PROBABLY NOT BEYOND 1975. THE WORK HAD TO BE DONE BY STATESMEN NOW IN POWER, ESPECIALLY BY BRANDT AND POMPIDOU.

2. HARMEL STILL FELT VERY UNEASY ABOUT POWERFUL TRENDS IN THE FEDREP, RUNNING TOWARD THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY AT ANY PRICE, EVEN AT THE PRICE OF NEUTRALITY AND DEFECTION FROM NATO. HE SAID IF THE U.S. ONCE UNDERSTANDS FULLY THE TRANSCENDENT IMPORTANCE OF THE IMPLICIT POLITICAL PURPOSE OF THE EC, NAMELY, TO KEEP THE FEDREP WITHIN THE ORBIT OF THE WEST, THEN IT COULD NOT BUT WELCOME THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING AN EC POLITICAL CONSENSUS, THOUGH IT MIGHT TEMPORARILY COMPLICATE SOME ASPECTS OF U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, AND APPRECIATE THE PROGRESS MADE AT COPENHAGEN. HARMEL SAID THAT A SEPARATE NATO DECLARATION, CONFINED TO SECURITY MATTERS, AND A SEPARATE U.S.-EC DECLARATION MIGHT NOT FULLY MEET U.S. EXPECTATIONS, AND MIGHT CREATE PROBLEMS AS REGARDS THE NON-EC/NATO ALLIES WHO WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY THE LATTER DECLARATION. WE SHOULD MAKE OUR NON-EC/NATO ALLIES UNDERSTAND THAT THE IMPLICIT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EC, NAMELY TO ANCHOR THE FEDREP IN THE DEMOCRATIC WEST, SERVED THE BEST INTEREST OF NATO, HENCE THEIRS AS WELL.

3. WE ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE CVP (FLEMISH CHRISTIAN PARTY) AND THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE CVP CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER. M. HARMEL AGREED WITH THE ASSESSMENT SUPPLIED BY SEGER AND DE SCHRLIVER (BRUSSELS 5317). HE SUGGESTED A MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT TINDEMANS. HOWEVER, TINDEMANS MIGHT WELL BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE NEUTRALIST CVP LEFT AND THUS INTRUDE ON THE TERRITORY OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAN
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ELSLANDE, WHO IS ALSO A CVP MEMBER. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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